As a result of the accident, 4 persons lost their lives, 6 persons suffered grievous injuries and 6 persons suffered simple injuries. Total cost of damage to the Railway in this accident is about Rs. 3.13 crore.

Compensation is paid only after a decree is awarded on a claim filed in this regard in the Railway Claims Tribunal. So far, no compensation claim has been filed in the tribunal. However, *ex-gratia* has been paid to the next of kin of the deceased and injured passengers as per rules.

The preliminary report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety does not indicate any act of terrorism. Necessary action will be taken against the defaulting staff after receipt of final inquiry report of the Commission of Railway Safety.

Modernization of railway stations

*27. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to modernize railway stations into world class standard;

(b) if so, the details of the plan and the stations earmarked for the modernization; and

(c) whether any target has been fixed for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) The details are being worked out and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of sugar

*28. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of sugar has considerably gone down during the year 2008-09 compared to previous years resulting in high rise in prices of sugar in the market; and

(b) if so, the reasons for decrease in the production and steps being taken to encourage cultivation of sugarcane and sugar production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The production of sugar during current sugar season 2008-09 (October-September) is estimated to be lower as compared to last three years' production. Lower production of sugar has put pressure on prices of sugar in the market.

(b) The production of sugar during the current sugar season 2008-09 has been low mainly due to decrease in area under sugarcane, reduction in cane yield, higher diversion of sugarcane for the manufacture of Jiggery (Gur) and Khandsari and fall in recovery rate. The Government has taken the following steps to encourage cultivation of sugarcane and increase sugar production in the country:-

(i) Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for the sugar season 2009-10 has been increased to Rs. 107.76 per quintal, with an additional premium of Rs. 1.13 for every 0.1% point increase in the recovery above 9.5%. The SMP for the previous sugar season was Rs. 81.18 per quintal, with an additional premium of Re.0.90 for every 0.1% point increase in the recovery above 9%.

(ii) A centrally sponsored scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) is under implementation. The main thrust of the scheme is on the transfer of improved production technology to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers, supply of farm implement, enhancing production of planting materials, efficient use of water, treatment of planting materials etc. The scheme is under implementation in 22 States/Union Territories.

(iii) Concessional loans at an interest rate of 4% per annum are given to sugar factories from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for modernization of plant and machinery, expansion of crushing capacity, upgradation of technology, and sugarcane development including better irrigation facilities, improved seed variety, ratoon management, etc.

Polio cases in the country

*29. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reported two-fold increase in cases of virulent wild polio virus Type I this year as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether recommendations of the India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG), an expert body to the Government of India on Polio, have since been implemented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the target of zero per cent polio cases is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the current year, till 26th June, 09, 25 Wild Polio Virus Type 1 (WPV1) including one case of mixture of Wild Polio Virus Type 1 and Wild Polio Virus Type 3 (WPV3) have been reported. As against this, 8 WPV1 cases were reported till the month of June in the year 2008. State-wise breakup of the WPV1 cases reported in 2009 (till 26th June, 2009) is as under:-